

Revising Paragraphs to Improve Style

DIRECTIONS Revise the paragraphs below. As you revise, remember to vary sentence beginnings and sentence structure and to eliminate wordiness.

Epilepsy is a disorder that affects brain function. It is characterized by sudden attacks, which are known as seizures. It is a fact that about one in every two hundred people, or 0.5 percent of the population, has epilepsy. This makes it a fairly common condition. Most people with epilepsy experience their first seizure early in life during childhood. Seizures seem to happen for no apparent reason. An electrical charge is released suddenly by the brain. That makes them occur. That is what doctors believe.

A *grand mal* seizure is an especially serious and dramatic type of attack. It is especially serious and dramatic because a person experiencing a *grand mal* seizure becomes unconscious suddenly, falls down, and shakes with convulsions. The person usually falls into a deep sleep after the seizure. A *petit mal* seizure is a less noticeable kind of attack of epilepsy. The person remains conscious during a *petit mal* seizure but is unaware of his or her surroundings for a moment. People with epilepsy often experience warnings before both kinds of attacks. These warnings are called auras and last just seconds. They may include strange memories, hallucinations, ringing in the ears, and unpleasant odors and tastes. They signal the beginning of a seizure.

Medications have been used successfully to reduce attacks or prevent them altogether. Surgery can be an effective cure for epilepsy. Attacks have to be limited to just part of the brain for surgery to be effective, however. Special diets have also proven helpful. They help control the number of attacks people with epilepsy experience.

[illegible]